2-19-30

Mt Pleasant,
Iowa

Dear Maynard & Katherine:

You no doubt have been expecting a letter from me for Months. Well here goes good or bad. News is welcome when people are so far from old home. We had a very cold Jan. and a big snow lasting in 6 10 days of Feb. but it is now about all gone and to day it is 66° and feels like blue birds. The girls did not come home Saturday. Ethel was sick. but Anna & the board came in and brought every thing down and got dinner for me Well now a good

2-19-30

Mt Pleasant,
Iowa

Dear Maynard & Katherine:

You no doubt have been expecting a letter from me for Months. Well here goes good or bad. News is welcome when people are so far from old home. We had a very cold Jan. and a big snow lasting in 6 10 days of Feb. but it is now about all gone and to day it is 66° and feels like blue birds. The girls did not come home Saturday. Ethel was sick. but Anna & the board came in and brought every thing down and got dinner for me Well now a good

time we had. with nuts and candy. Apples &c Little James is walking fine and is try to talk in fact he does a lot of it that we do not quite understand. Then after dinner we drove down to New London to talk a while with Ethel & Alice. I think Ethel is better as she seemed cheerful and I have heard no more from them, Walter is now on the Way to China. He wrote a good long letter from Angel Island. Cal. saying he would leave there about Feb 10. There are liable to have some trouble, in that old Country. Two years will give him a chance to see a big part of the Ocean. at least.

I hope he keep well and enjoys the life and he will as he is young. Art. writes cheerful letters, Paul not so cheerful but he writes, now from Kelly's Cafe of Ottumwa Ia We have not been down to Burlington much this winter as the girls did not want to drive on the narrow crowded roads - but we will have the car out again soon and see the spring come again. I get your reports of attendance from your College occasionally OK Well dig in and learn for it is like money in the bank now to know things, I am sending you my small bit to help you along. I saw our old neighbor Charlie Heater last week and he had been away for month

did not know of you being married. Why he Exclaimed as you know he can do and said Well Well that boy. I always did like Maynard He will get along give him our love and best wishes. Charlie was a fine fellow but he did like our kindling wood did he not? I am now about down to the last of that good kindling you made so fine by being careful and using it all the things &c about I will gett through the winter sure. Everett M. inquires about you often. They lost the second child: Pat Jaffrey has made another resolution after almost passing out. and is starting in to do better and has worked at

the Noddle shop now — Things seem to move along as usual in a small place but it would take page after page to write you of the things having taken place here about this old town even for the last year. I cannot begin to write them out; Business is irregular comes a good week and then a dull one. due partly to the cold &c. but Dr Frank Coles who first started over at Salem is having a new office fixed over the Oxford which will not do us very much good I fear — I will have to close now. with love and best wishes to you and Katherine and regards to the Parts. I am as ever Father.

Letter from Maynard's
Father after he learned of
wedding - Nov. 1 - 1929

A Letter Home from Mount Pleasant, Iowa

Reflections
Jeffrey Hunt
June 27 2026

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
2-19-30

This letter was found in a suitcase I picked up from my uncle Paul in June 2026. The suitcase contained some of the last letters and photographs my grandmother Hunt had held onto.

The letter was written by Maynard's father—John Peter Hunt, my great-grandfather—to Maynard and Katherine Hunt following their marriage on November 1, 1929. Dated February 19, 1930, it is largely a letter of hometown news from Mount Pleasant, Iowa: family illnesses, winter weather, business, neighbors, travel, and the ordinary details of life continuing far from the newly married couple.

Some of the handwriting is difficult to decipher, and several words and names remain uncertain. The accompanying transcription should not be treated as an absolute or definitive reading. It is simply an attempt to recover as much of the letter as possible, with uncertain readings placed in brackets.

Even with its gaps, this is a fascinating letter from home. Its small references help preserve pieces of the family timeline and details that might otherwise disappear entirely.

The mention of Walter traveling to China in 1929, is especially remarkable. He wrote from Angel Island, California, before leaving for the Orient. I can see Angel Island from my bedroom window in Berkeley, California, yet until reading this letter, I had no idea that someone in my own family had passed through there on his way to China nearly a century ago. That connection across time is astounding.

There may be several more letters in the suitcase, possibly including others written by Maynard's father. I hope to go through them as well. These letters are extremely important—not only as family keepsakes, but as fragments of a larger story that can still be recovered, one difficult line at a time.

Letter from Maynard's Father
After he learned of wedding - Nov 1 1929

Mt. Pleasant, Iowa
2-19-30

Dear Maynard & Katherine:

You no doubt have been expecting a letter from me for months. Well here goes, good or bad. News is welcome when people are so far from old home.

We had a very cold Jan. and a big snow lasting into 10 days of Feb., but it is now about all gone, and today it is 66° and felt like bluebirds.

The girls did not come home Saturday. Ethel was sick, but Anna & the crowd came in and brought everything down and got dinner for me.

Well now, a good time we had, with nuts and candy, apples, and [unclear].

Little James is walking fine and is trying to talk. In fact, he does a lot of it that we do not quite understand.

Then after dinner we drove down to New London to talk a while with Ethel & Alvin. I think Ethel is better, as she seemed cheerful, and I have heard no more from them.

Walter is now on his way to China. He wrote a good long letter from Angel Island, Cal., saying he would leave there about Feb. 10. They are liable to have some trouble in that old country. Two years will give him a chance to see a big part of the Orient at least.

I hope he keeps well and enjoys the trip, and he will, as he is young. Art writes cheerful letters. Paul not so cheerful, but he writes now from [Kelly's Cafe?] of Ottumwa, Ia.

We have not been down to Burlington much this winter, as the girls did not want to drive on the narrow crowded roads, but we will have the car out again soon and see the spring come again.

I get your reports of attendance from Jan. [unclear] occasionally. O.K. Well, dig in and learn, for it is like money in the bank now.

I am sending you a small bit to help you along. I saw our old neighbor Charlie [Heady?] last week, and he had been away for months and did not know of your being married.

“Why,” he exclaimed, as you know he can do, and said, “Well, well, old boy, I always did like Maynard. He will get along. Give him our love and best wishes.”

Charlie was a fine fellow, but he did like our [kindling wood?], did he not? I am now about down to the last of that good kindling you made so fine by being careful and using it all—the twigs [unclear]. I’ll about get through the winter sure.

Aunt M. inquires about you often. They lost the second child. [Pal?] Jeffery has made another resolution after almost passing out and is starting in to do better, and has went at the noble step now.

Things seem to move along as usual in a small place, but it would take page after page to write you of the things having taken place here about this old town, even in the last year. I cannot begin to write them out.

Business is irregular—comes a good week and then a dull one, due partly to the cold, etc.; but Dr. Fred [Cole?], not satisfied over at Salem, is having a new office fixed over the [Oxford?], which will not do us very much good, I fear.

I will have to close now, with love and best wishes to you and Katherine, and regards to the Ports.

I am, as ever,

Father